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2. MEETING THE CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL (CBR) THREAT: SYDNEY OLYMPIC GAMES - 2000

Captain Warwick D.G. Penrose
CBR Response Disposal Troop Commander

ABSTRACT

The Joint Incident Response Unit (JIRU) was given the specialist mission of reducing the hazard of Chemical, Biological, Radiological (CBR) and Explosive threats to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The primary responsibility of reducing the CBR terrorist threat rested with the CBR Response Squadron (CBRR Sqn). The CBRR Sqn was primarily focused on supporting the New South Wales Police, however this support also included coverage of all other Australian cities that hosted Olympic events as well as supporting a hostage recovery incident should a CBR threat develop.

Two separate CBR Response teams were on standby during the Olympic Security Period. The CBRR Sqn developed a two tiered crisis response system. A small CBRR Diagnostic team, with their own organic decontamination, triage and communication assets, would be reacted to confirm the presence of a CBR threat. An extensive scientific reachback capability supplied from the Technical and Scientific Support Group (TSSG) (which consisted of personnel from US Department of Energy, UK Department of Defence and the Defence Scientific and Technology Organisation of the Australian Defence Force (ADF)) was in direct support of this team.

If a CBR threat was confirmed, CBRR Disposal elements with dedicated decontamination stations and resus bays, would be called forward to support the CBRR operation. Concurrently, the CBRR Diagnostic team once it had confirmed the threat would focus on containing and rendering safe the device in the crisis management phase, before taking samples and assisting in site remediation during the consequence management phase. The significant lessons learnt from the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, from the CBRR crisis management perspective will be described.

KEYWORDS

CBRR, chemical threat, biological threat, radiological threat